

# STA-BIL®

## NATIONAL LAWN MOWER RACING SERIES



# 2012 The Cutting Edge

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Mow,  
Mow to  
Live!"







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USLMRA



## 2012 USLMRA President's Message

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### Message from the President

20 Years of Sod Slings. 20 years of Sod Slingsing!!! I had to write that twice because I'm still letting that sink in.

I've recently been sorting through the vast USLMRA archives, taking a journey down memory lane via newspaper clips, magazines, tapes, posters, flyers and assorted brick-a-brack. Fortunately, I've saved *everything* regarding USLMRA history over the past 20 years, and a photo sampling is included here in the 2012 Cutting Edge Yearbook.

So, what memories come to mind? Here are a few:

- The first racing mower I ever saw, at the 1992 Twelve Mile 500.
- The entire fist STA-BIL Nationals in 1992 – I remember everything about that weekend.
- The Dixie Chopper Jet Mower on *Home Improvement*, 1993.
- Mow Camp at the Benton Harbor Airport, 1995.
- Meeting Paul Harvey at Ken Smolecki's garage, 1994.
- Point Mallard Park, Decatur, Alabama, 1995-1999.
- Mavis and Dink Strunk and Quincy and Tim Hamilton.
- Mendota, Illinois, 1998-2008.
- The British Invasion to Lisle, Illinois, 2000.
- Middletown, Ohio Balloon Festival, with the mower racers and Civil War Reenactors, 1996.
- Bristol Motor Speedway, running on the big track, 2002.
- The 2007 Edenton, NC IMOW race in between Wally Bender and Sid Whiteside. Amazing!
- Sid Whiteside's Rain Dance, Avon Park, FL 2007.
- The photo finish between Tim Matheny and Jim Miller, 1995 STA-BIL Nationals, Rockford, IL.
- Janet Witt and her courage, along with her "plunging neckline" dress.
- Art Neavill dressed as a Flower Girl.
- Bob Stormer...just Bob Stormer!
- Racing Ray wearing his TNN t-shirt, 1995.
- Hanging with the original USLMRA lawn mower racers: Loco Larry Henning, Flyin' Dave Brown, Kevin Abernathy, Bill Kroeschel, Greg Baum, Dave Mallas, Kurt Schwengel and Jim Poden.
- Gerry Hoos and the Shelby Mustang Mower Crew, 1993-1995.
- Art Evans, the founder of Dixie Chopper, holding court with the racers.
- Steve Moss!
- Cut Bank Montana: Guy Black, Tom Johnson, Craig Rude, Bob Stormer, 1994-1998.
- Jack Spangler, Mansfield, Ohio, 2002-2006.
- Dave and Yolie Hertel's reserved spot by the pine tree at STA-BIL Nationals, 2002-2006.
- Art Elsner, Pot Stirrer.
- Kissing the cow at Genoa City, WI races, 2003-2004.
- The Ast family: Tom, Trudy, Kerri, Kyle and Curtis.
- Joe Gillians starting the first USLMRA Local Chapter – Florida Lawnracing Association.



- Ken Jones, who has stood by me through thick and thin since 1998, and he still does.
- My old and new friends in Texas: Cheryl Powell, John and Kathy Nelson, Tim and Patty Robison, Mike and Christina Denbow...Frank Pryor, Charles Powell, Mike Cupps, Garrett Gray, Sammie and Marion Neel.
- Mike and Mary Lou Boris, and their awesome parties at their house – with blues band!
- Dubba G, tabletop dancing, Mansfield, Ohio, 2002.
- George Herrin giving a spare motor to Mike "Gonzo" Leonard at 2003 STA-BIL Nationals.
- Racing in the middle of New York's Rockefeller Plaza, 2006, with Dave Smith.
- The 2007 New York International Auto Show – DIRTY TURTLES RULE!
- The loooooong rule-making weekends at Bill Simpson's house, 3rd weekend in November, 1998-2002.
- Doug and Merriane Rogerson and the drag racing program.
- Watching Chuck Miller race...for 20 years!
- Filming "How a Combustion Engine Works" with Bobby Cleveland, Mark Boyce and Chuck Miller for Turf Rockets on Discovery Channel, 2002.
- The 1999 trip to England for the 12-Hour Race. Fish and chips at 2:00am; racing, sausage and eggs...racing...racing...cocktails...daylight... Ken Smolecki waving checkered flag...sleep!
- Bob "Tiny" Frennesson, from Katy, Texas, and the thousands of miles he travelled each summer to race his mower – "Tiny."
- Race in Presque Isle, Maine, 1997, meeting Michael Bonville and Tim Ryan.
- The 1999 race at Atlanta Motor Speedway
- Silly String at STA-BIL Nationals Awards Ceremony!

Congratulations to our Award-Winning 2011 Drivers: Wally Bender, Driver of the Year; Ronald Rollman, Most Improved Driver of the Year; John Brewer, Rookie of the Year (Adult); Wyatt Sullivan, Rookie of the Year (Junior Prepared); Jackie Andrews, Dave Hertel Mowtivation Award; Rodney Peeler, Charles Powell Mr. Mowjangles Award; Wally Bender, The Dubba G Everyman Award and Lee Grover, Mace Mullins Crew Chief Award

What a great 20 years it's been! Great racing, fun times, awesome people, great products to promote and worthy causes to support. I've considered myself so very lucky to be guiding the USLMRA since Day One, and I still feel that way. I am as MOWtivated today as I was on April 1, 1992, our birthday.

Thank you, Gold Eagle Co., for allowing us to do what we do and for 20 years of support, encouragement and guidance. You are the BEST!

Even though I could keep writing, I'll stop now and just say, it's been a great 20 years, so let's keep it MOWING!

Bruce Kaufman  
USLMRA Founder & President  
May 2, 2012



## Lawn Mower Racing Hall of Fame Welcomes Three New Members



Three new members were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011, all well deserving of this high honor. Founded in 2009, the USLMRA National Lawn Mower Racing Hall of Fame & Museum of America is located at Miller Lawn and Power, 1299 Harding Highway East State Road 309, Marion, Ohio.

- **John Nelson** "Sir Lawns-A-Lot," Richardson, Texas: As a member of the USLMRA Steering Committee, Past President of the Lone Star Mower Racing Association (LSMRA) and the nation's first "Mow Ambassador," "Sir Lawns-A-Lot" epitomizes the spirit and unique culture of lawn mower racing. Also known as John Deere Nelson, John competed in five racing classes from 2001-2010. John still loves to show off in his John Deere 210, 14-foot, 5-engine machine he calls "Mow Longer."

- **Dr. Art Neavill**, Commerce Township, Michigan: Dr. Art Neavill is beloved for his spirit, love of competition and eagerness to help fellow racers. Just before his retirement from the Michigan public school system, Art became a lawn mower racer, touring the country with his son-in-law and wife by his side, while intermittently battling cancer. Lawn mower racers across the country have benefitted from Art's generosity. Be it a spare part, extra engine or entire lawn mower, if Dr. Art is in the pits, what's his is yours.

- **Charles Powell** – "Mr. Mowjangles" (1950-2006), Forney, Texas: The late Charles Powell was USLMRA VP of Operations, LSMRA Founding President, Winner of the 2005 Pain in the Butt Award and simply, Mr. Mowjangles. He was a MOWtivated racer, chapter president and race steward. The annual USLMRA Charles Powell Mr. Mowjangles Award was named in his honor.

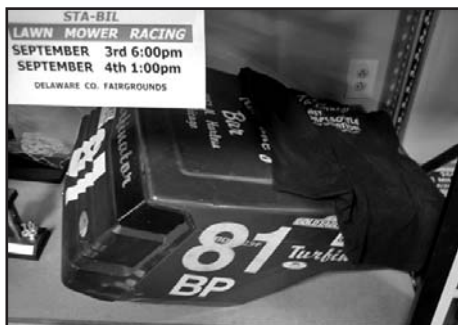


### 2010

- **Ken "Turfinator" Smolecki** whose mower, The Turfinator was featured on the TV sitcom *Home Improvement* and who raced in the legendary British Lawn Mower Racing Association 12-Hour Race.
- **Bill Simpson**, who served as the first USLMRA Race Director, adding consistency to race officiating by directing a staff of race stewards and staff.

### 2009

- The Organizing Committee of Indiana's Twelve Mile 500, America's oldest lawn mower race, founded 1963.
- **Jim Gavin** of Wisborough Green, England, Founder and General Secretary of the British Lawn Mower Racing Association, founded 1973.
- "Racing Ray" Mrocks, also known as "Sodzilla," the first USLMRA member, who heeded the call to sod slinging glory on April 1, 1992, the birthday of national lawn mower race sanctioning in the United States.
- **Chuck "Boogie Woogie" Miller**, the only USLMRA member to compete in every STA-BIL Nationals since 1992.



## The National Lawn Mower Racing Hall of Fame & Museum of America



John Nelson, "Sir Lawns A Lot" and Art Neavill, 2011



John Nelson, Art Neavill and members of the Lone Star Mower Racing Association with John's "Mow Longer" at the 2011 STA-BIL Nationals



Charles Powell, Mr. MOWjangles, 2011



## 2012 STA-BIL National Lawn & Garden Mower Racing Series 2012 U.S. Open Series Schedule

\* April 28, Windy Hill Mower Speedway, McDonough, GA  
STA-BIL Southern Shoot Out

\* May 19, Gusher Days, Oil City, LA  
STA-BIL Gusher Days Mow Down Show Down

June 2-3, U.S. Cure Mower Cancer Open, Superior, WI  
U.S. Cure Mower Cancer Open

\* June 9, Englewood Lions Club, Englewood, TN  
STA-BIL Volunteer Spring Nationals

\* June 23, Nostalgia Days, Zion, IL  
STA-BIL Land of Lincoln Nationals

July 4-5, 4th of July Festival Estacada, OR STA-BIL Pacific Coast Summer Nationals (Includes U.S. Pacific Coast Open)

July 21-22, Huntington's Disease Race For Research, Sparta, MI  
STA-BIL Great Lakes Summer Nationals, Sparta, MI

July 28-29, River Bottom Raceway, Carlisle, Iowa  
STA-BIL America's Heartland Summer Nationals & US Midwest Open

August 3-4, Bowles Farms, Clements, MD  
STA-BIL Bowles Farms Turf Battle

August 11-12, U.S. Open V-Twin Shootout  
Vestaburg Speedway, Vestaburg, MI

\* August 18, Westmoreland Fair, Greensburg, PA  
STA-BIL Northeast Summer Nationals

\* September 1-2, 20th Anniversary STA-BIL Keeps Gas  
Fresh Finals & US Open, Delaware, OH

Nov. 3-4, Sam Rogers U.S. All American Open,  
Stevenson, AL

\* = 2-Races On Same Day

\*\* = Taping for Fox Sports Net [www.foxsports.com](http://www.foxsports.com)

Schedule subject to change. Race details at:  
[www.letsnow.com](http://www.letsnow.com) (Official USLMRA site)  
[www.facebook.com/uslmra](http://www.facebook.com/uslmra) (Facebook Page)

## USLMRA Special Award Winners

### Driver of the Year

2002, Tim Hamilton, Alabama  
2003, Janet Witt, Florida  
2004, George Herrin, Tennessee  
2005, Jayson Mikula, Michigan  
2006, Troy Larson, Michigan  
2007, Pat Sullivan, Florida  
2008, Jim Mikula, Michigan  
2009, Richard Webb, Michigan  
2010, Richard Webb, Michigan  
2011, Wally Bender, Maryland



Wally Bender, Maryland

### Rookie of the Year (Adult)

2002, Rich Yeager, Florida  
2003, Tim Ragsdale, Tennessee  
2004, Tanya Ragsdale, Tennessee  
2005, Craig Pond, Michigan  
2006, Kyle Ast, Florida  
2007, Tom Berkey, Florida  
2008, Kurtis Ast, Florida  
2009, Kevin Repa, Illinois  
2010, Nathan Mesalk, Wisconsin  
2011, John Brewer, Tennessee



John Brewer, Tennessee

### Most Improved Driver of the Year

2002, George Herrin, Tennessee  
2003, Tim Robison, Texas  
2004, Jayson Mikula, Michigan  
2005, Tracy Donihue, Michigan  
2006, Tom Ast, Florida  
2007, Becky Kuhfeldt, Florida  
2008, Jason Brown, Maryland  
2009, Manny Torres, Maryland  
2010, "Wild" Bill Campbell, Michigan  
2011, Ronald Rollman, TN



Ronald Rollman, Tennessee

### Rookie of the Year (Junior Prepared)

2008, Christian Jones, Maryland  
2009, Pierce Benton, Florida  
2010, Garrett Bell, Michigan  
2011, Wyatt Sullivan, North Carolina



Wyatt Sullivan, North Carolina

## The Chase For The Golden Blade

Founded in 2006, the Chase For The Golden Blade is open to all USLMRA local chapters: win a trophy at a STA-BIL National Lawn Mower Racing Series event and your designated chapter gets a point. The chapter that has accumulated the most points at the conclusion of the season wins the Golden Blade.



The DelMarVa Lawn Mower Racing Association, winner of the 2011 Chase for the Golden Blade.

The Chase For The Golden Blade was created to promote a friendly rivalry between all sanctioned local chapters of the

USLMRA. The actual award is a perpetual plaque that is passed on to the winning chapter at the conclusion of the racing season. The winning chapter has their name added to the plaque and maintains possession until it is passed on at the conclusion of the following season. Along with plaque comes bragging rights. The inaugural year of the Chase was won by the Michigan Lawn Mower Racing Association. The Florida Lawn Mower Racing Association was a close second. The 2007 season saw a reversal in the final trophy tally with Florida accumulating the most trophies and Michigan taking second. The Golden Blade remained in the Sunshine State for 2008 and 2009, but in 2010 it returned to Michigan.

Here's to friendly, safe racing...and the Chase for the Golden Blade!

### Past Winners of the Golden Blade:

- 2006: Michigan Lawn Mower Racing Association
- 2007: Florida Lawnracing Association
- 2008: Florida Lawnracing Association
- 2009: Florida Lawnracing Association
- 2010: Michigan Lawn Mower Racing Association
- 2011: DelMarVa Lawn Mower Racing Association



# United States Lawn Mower Racing Association



## USLMRA Honorary Awards Program

USLMRA Honorary Awards are bestowed upon one USLMRA member, staff member, volunteer or related person who epitomizes the spirit of the following dear, departed friends.

USLMRA members, staff, volunteers and related parties are eligible for the Award. USLMRA members, staff, volunteers and related parties can submit an essay, in writing, nominating a person who is deserving of these honors. Essays can be submitted in any written format, and must be submitted direct

to Bruce Kaufman, USLMRA President. All entries submitted by 5:00 PM on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend (STA-BIL Nationals Weekend) will be considered.

The USLMRA President will select the Honorees. The Honoree will be announced at the Racer Banquet during STA-BIL Nationals Weekend. The Nominators and actual Honorees do not have to be present.

## USLMRA Honorary Award Winners

### Dave Hertel Mowtivation Award

2005, Art Neavill, Michigan  
2006, Mike Leonard, Ohio  
2007, Jim Mikula, Michigan  
2008, Pat Sullivan, Florida  
2009, Lou Filos, Maryland  
2010, Chuck Miller, Ohio  
2011, Jackie Andrews, Maryland

### Mace Mullins Crew Chief Award

2009, Kevin Penne  
2010, Jayson Mikula, Michigan  
2011, Lee Glover, New Jersey

### Charles Powell Mr. MOWjangles Award

2007, Manny Torres, Maryland  
2008, Jim Witt, Florida  
2009, Kerry Evans, Alabama  
2010, Pat "Rocket Man" Sullivan, Florida  
2011, Rodney Peeler, Tennessee

### The Dubba G Everyman Award

2007, Tim Robison, Texas  
2008, Al Minaker, Wisconsin  
2009, Bobby Cleveland, Georgia  
2010, Jim Keech  
2011, Wally Bender, Maryland

### USLMRA President's Awards

Kerry Evans, USLMRA VP/Director of Timing & Scoring/  
US Open Co-Chair  
Manny Torres, USLMRA Tech Director  
Rodney Peeler, USLMRA Chief Steward  
Richard Webb, USLMRA chief Steward  
Chrissy Webb, USLMRA Registration  
Lee Vine, U.S. Open Co-Chair  
"Wild Bill" Campbell, USLMRA Chief Steward  
Bud Elmore, USLMRA Western Regional Director  
Bobbie Peeler, USLMRA Registration  
Carol Keur, Mowtivation and Hospitality

### U.S. Spirit & Spark Awards

Tim Wood, Delaware County Fairgrounds  
Larry Moreland, Delaware County Fairgrounds  
Al Myers, Delaware County Fairgrounds  
Matt Strine, President, Ohio Lawn Mower Racing Association  
Lou Filos, U.S. Tech  
Scott "Skeeter" Bittle, Lone Star Mower Racing Association  
Marion & Sammie Neel, Lone Star Mower Racing Association  
Jim Maurice, Mr. Mow It All's Time Saver

### Lifetime Memberships

Chuck Miller John Nelson

## Dave Hertel Mowtivation Award

(Established 2005)

Named in honor of USLMRA Tech Inspector and "everybody's good friend" Dave Hertel.

"Words fail to describe how I feel after having read this email. My only thought is what a wonderful honor to be bestowed on my husband. I know without a doubt Dave would have a smile the size of Texas and, of course, be indulging in the greatest award of lawn mower racing, "BRAGGING RIGHTS." Have a safe racing season. Thank you so much for forwarding messages from the racers. It brings peace to my heart. May everyone love the sport and keep it safe, competitive and friendly."

Yolie Hertel

"I am deeply touched that there is an award for my father, Dave Hertel. I know he would be proud and he probably is. May his spirit and his legend live on in the lawn mower community."

Thanks to all. Dawn Teska (Dave's daughter)



2011 USLMRA  
Dave Hertel  
Award Winner  
Jackie Andrews

## Gonzo Go To Fund

(Established 2007)

Note: As announced at the 2007 STA-BIL Nationals Weekend, funds are being awarded to honor the memory of late, great Mike "Gonzo" Leonard, 2006 Dave Hertel Mowtivation Award Winner, who passed away in 2007. Mike loved to "go to" races, so to honor Mike, Local chapters are collecting funds to be given to racers to help them so that they may "go to" races. Here is what the Michigan Lawn Mower Racing Association (MILMRA) is doing.



A monetary sum will be given by random selection to one (1) racer in each USLMRA Class during STA-BIL Nationals Weekend in honor of Mike "Gonzo" Leonard.



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**USLMRA**

# United States Lawn Mower Racing Association



## Dubba G Everyman Award

(Established 2007)

*"I was put here to make others happy. I believed in myself so others could."*

Dubba G

From Dubba G, himself:

1. We are looking for people with dedication, integrity and conviction to stand up for what they believe, even when unpopular.

2. The candidate will carry a positive disposition.

3. Actions on the track, including driving style, will show gentlemanly demeanor. Not necessarily always deferring to other drivers, but not creating unsafe situations. Their competitive spirit needs to be tempered with a "spirit of a sound mind."

4. Candidates are willing to help others. When times of need arise, sacrifice is not uncommon, being willing to volunteer, add a hand, step up to the plate.

5. Enthusiasm is key. They want to be here, at the race, in the paddock, and at the driver's meeting. Their excitement will help the group's positive energy grow and surge just by their presence. People like being around the candidate.

6. General knowledge of what's going on on race day, at the race track, in the paddock, in general. This would imply that first month rookies may not fully qualify, but depending on their learning curve, they could be in the running. This doesn't mean they have to know everything, but a good solid understanding of how things work is the basic idea.

7. Most important, at least to me, is their Sense of Fair Play. We have all seen racers over the years that possess some or a few of these qualities, but when bump comes to shove, this particular attribute gets left behind or thrown out the window, depending on the situation. This applies on the track, during negotiations with the rules committee, and during arguments about rules infractions and who gets the last beer after the race.

8. Comes prepared to help. Spare parts, rope to hang clothes, share knowledge, extra mower to run on race day in order to keep accumulating points for the season. Having made preparations to help others in advance, knowing someone will need something. #4 shows the willingness, #8 exhibits the forethought to add extra supplies, etc.

9. One of the traditions I enjoyed most was having a steak and a beer (or mower) after the race. I know most people want to run home. But there are always a few who will stick around or meet you on the way to the airport. This one is a bit hard to wrap your arms around, but I think this is part of the mix.

10. I always preferred plaques. Trophies can be hard to store, but there's always room for a plaque. A lot less dusting along with less space used.



2011 USLMRA Dubba G Everyman Award Winner Wally Bender

## Charles Powell Mr. MOWjangles Award

(Established 2007)

Charles Powell was the driving force behind the USLMRA Local Chapter System. His support, guidance and forward-thinking are what has made the LC System so successful.

Charles was a fortunate man. The three things he loved most in the world were his family, his job and lawnmower racing. How many people can say they spend their days doing what they love, in one capacity or another?

Charles loved everything about lawnmower racing: the preparation, travel, excitement, the adrenaline rush and, most especially, the people. He also loved doing whatever he could to make the sport better. He was constantly thinking, mulling, tweaking – just trying, in some small way, to make it something for everyone. No one will ever know how much of himself he gave.

This award is exciting, because it means someone who is working just as diligently as Charles always did will be recognized. If the recipient is anything like Charles, he/she is pretty much behind the scenes and wants no recognition, which is all the more reason for accolades.



2011 USLMRA Charles Powell Mr. MOWjangles Award Winner Rodney Peeler

These are the people who make things happen and keep things running smoothly, yet no one knows unless something goes wrong. They spend countless hours arranging, meeting, editing, mediating, putting in physical labor, being on the telephone, sacrificing time with family and friends and sometimes their own dollars to make the local Chapters work. They step up when called upon and just roll up their sleeves and get to work. They are leaders, and like many good leaders, they stand back when it is time for applause.

With this award comes a small token of appreciation for all the work that goes into this crazy, wonderful sport of lawnmower racing. As long as these people are willing to continue to give of themselves it will only get better and better. Tyler & Crystal, Cody, Mama MOWjangles and I can think of no better way to honor him.

## Mace Mullins Crew Chief Award

(Established 2009)



Racer, engine builder and Crew Chief Mace Mullins passed away on July 17, 2009. Mace, a multi-year racing champion, will be honored annually with the Mace Mullins Crew Chief Award. "Mace was like a brother to me, and I'm proud to honor him," said Multi-Year AP Class Champion Dale Becker. "Mace was loved by lawn mower racers everywhere, and I love the guy." It was Dale Becker's idea to honor Mace with this award.



# 2011 US Open Winners



SP US Open Champions



IMOW US Open Champions



CP US Open Champions



Open Single US Open Champions



CPR US Open Champions



AP US Open Champions



JP US Open Champions



BP US Open Champions



Open Twin US Open Champions



US Open Racers



US Open Racers

## JP

- 1st John Michael Bell, TN
- 2nd Wyatt Sullivan, NC
- 3rd Kelsey VanEpps, MI
- 4th Mariah Peeler, TN
- 5th Jacob Herrin, TN

## IMOW

- 1st Pat Sullivan, FL
- 2nd James Keech, MI
- 3rd Tina Paccione, NJ
- 4th Bobby Cleveland, GA
- 5th Doug Smith, MI

## AP

- 1st Pat Sullivan, FL
- 2nd Pete Sullivan, NC
- 3rd Matt Tucker, IA
- 4th Wally Bender, MD
- 5th Freddy Burt, MI

## SP

- 1st Michael Paccione, NJ
- 2nd Richard Webb, MI
- 3rd Wally Bender, MD
- 4th Matt Strine, OH
- 5th Pat Gore, NJ

## CP

- 1st Pete Sullivan, NC
- 2nd Thomas Flynn, TN
- 3rd James Maurice, GA
- 4th Kevin Ferguson, MD
- 5th Michael Paccione, NJ

## BP

- 1st Richard Webb, MI
- 2nd Jayson Mikula, MI
- 3rd James Mikula, MI
- 4th Bobby Cleveland, GA
- 5th Kody Bennett, PA

## Single

- 1st Mike Miller, WI
- 2nd Kevin Penne, IL
- 3rd Matt Tucker, IA
- 4th Christopher Cox, GA
- 5th Wally Bender, MD

## Twin

- 1st Shane Ross, Ontario, Canada
- 2nd George Herrin, TN
- 3rd Jayson Mikula, MI
- 4th Alan Wood, Ontario, Canada
- 5th Skeeter Pallister, Ontario, Canada

## CPR

- 1st Jacob Herrin, TN
- 2nd David Glassnor, MI
- 3rd Alan Wood, Ontario, Canada
- 4th Jon Lewman, KS
- 5th Chad Caudy





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**USLMRA**

# 2011 USLMRA National Points Champions



**JP US National Points Champions**

1st	John Michael Bell, TN, 3000
2nd	Wyatt Sullivan, NC, 2800
3rd	Hayden Martin, MI, 2650
4th	Jordan Brown, MD, 2650
5th	Lauren Filos, MD, 2600
6th	Mariah Peeler, TN, 2500
7th	Jacob Herrin, TN, 2400
8th	Jonathan Barber, IN, 1550
9th	Kelsey VanEpps, MI, 1050
10th	Mateo Palacios, MI, 800



**AP US National Points Champions**

1st	Pete Sullivan, NC, 2950
2nd	Michael Paccione, NJ, 2850
3rd	Tom Hawley, MI, 2700
4th	Lee Grover, NJ, 2600
5th	William Campbell, MI, 2500
6th	Kevin Ferguson, MD, 2350
7th	Tommy Hawley, MI, 2300
8th	Jacob Blackburn, TN, 2300
9th	Robert Ginn, TN, 2150
10th	Jon Lewman, KS, 2050



**SP US National Points Champions**

1st	Pat Sullivan, FL, 3000
2nd	Wally Bender, MD, 2950
3rd	Chris VanMaastricht, MI, 2900
4th	Dawn Filos, MD, 2600
5th	James Keech, MI, 2450
6th	Tina Paccione, NJ, 2400
7th	John Brewer, TN, 2350
8th	Art Neavill, MI, 2200
9th	Pat Gore, NJ, 2200
10th	Tommy Hawley, MI, 2200



**FX US National Points Champions**

1st	Ronald Rolman, TN, 2950
2nd	Jason Brown, MD, 2850
3rd	Jayson Mikula, MI, 2700
4th	James Mikula, MI, 2700
5th	Chuck Miller, OH, 2600
6th	Jamie Maurice, GA, 2450
7th	Larry Benning, KS, 2300
8th	David Martin, MI, 2150
9th	Bob Cleveland, GA, 2100
10th	George Herrin, TN, 2000



**BP US National Points Champions**



**IMOW US National Points Champions**



**CP US National Points Champions**

## AP

1st CO-CHAMPIONS	Matthew Moran/
	Wally Bender, MD, 2600
3rd	Pat Sullivan, FL, 2550
4th	Pete Sullivan, NC, 2450
5th	Tony Thompson, IL, 2450
6th	Lee Grover, NJ, 2350
7th	Tommy Hawley, MI, 2300
8th	Mark Moran, Jr. MD, 2050
9th	Freddy Burt, MI, 1950
10th	Vickie Nahas, MD, 1700

## FX

1st	Greg Honchell, OH, 2900
2nd	Christopher Cox GA, 2850
3rd	Mark Moran, Sr. MD, 2700
4th	Manuel Torres, MD, 2650
5th	Kevin Penne, IL, 2650
6th	Wally Bender, MD, 2350
7th	Kenneth Holder, KY, 2150
8th	Tony Hinson, GA, 1950
9th	Mike Miller, WI, 1700
10th	James Klauss, PA, 1500

## SP

1st	Jason Brown, MD, 3000
2nd	Wally Bender, MD, 2900
3rd	Michael Paccione, NJ, 2750
4th	Richard Webb, MI, 2700
5th	Jackie Andrews, MD, 2650
6th	Matthew Strine, OH, 2450
7th	Larry Benning, KS, 2350
8th	Dawn Filos, MD, 2250
9th	Pat Gore, NJ, 2150
10th	David Martin, MI, 1900





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 Jewell Strickland – Track Coord.  
 Visit Us On Facebook: GLMRA Windy Hill Mower Speedway  
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# 2011 STA-BIL Keeps Gas Fresh Finals Winners



## JP

- 1st John Michael Bell, TN
- 2nd Wyatt Sullivan, NC
- 3rd Jordan Brown, MD
- 4th Kelsey Vanepps, MI
- 5th Jacob Herrin, TN

## IMOW

- 1st Pat Sullivan, FL
- 2nd Wally Bender, MD
- 3rd Chris Vanmaastricht, MI
- 4th Tina Paccione, NJ
- 5th Dawn Filos, MD

## AP

- 1st Lee Grover, NJ
- 2nd Matthew Moran, MD
- 3rd Tony Thompson, IL
- 4th Freddy Burt, MI

## SP

- 1st Jason Brown, MD
- 2nd Wally Bender, MD
- 3rd Michael Paccione, NJ
- 4th Jackie Andrews, MD
- 5th Pat Gore, NJ

## CP

- 1st Pete Sullivan, NC
- 2nd Michael Paccione, NJ
- 3rd Kevin Ferguson, MD
- 4th Tom Hawley, MI
- 5th Jacob Blackburn, TN

## BP

- 1st Jason Brown, MD
- 2nd Ronald Rollman, TN
- 3rd James Mikula, MI
- 4th Bobby Cleveland, GA
- 5th Craig Jones, MI

## FX

- 1st Kevin Penne, IL
- 2nd Mike Miller, WI
- 3rd Greg Honchell, OH
- 4th Christopher Cox, GA
- 5th Mark Moran, Sr., MD



BP Finals Winners



SP Finals Winners



AP Finals Winners



CP Finals Winners



IMOW Finals Winners



JP Finals Winners



FX Finals Winners



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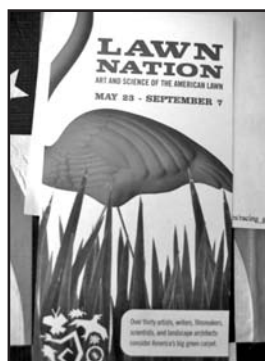
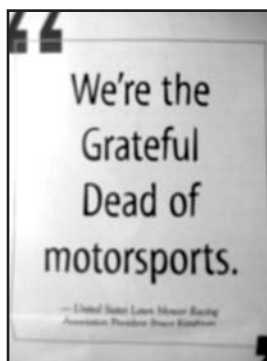
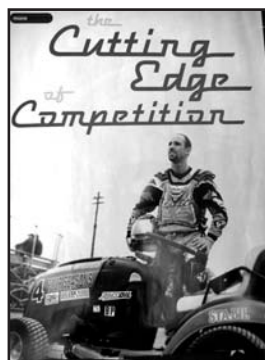
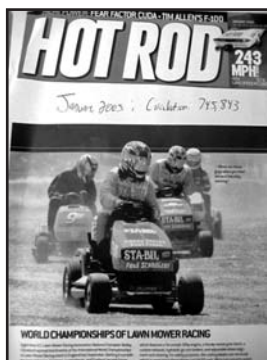
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# Let's look back on 20 years of USLMRA/ STA-BIL Lawn Mower Racing History

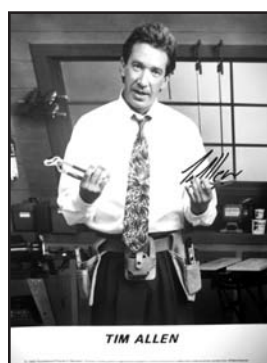
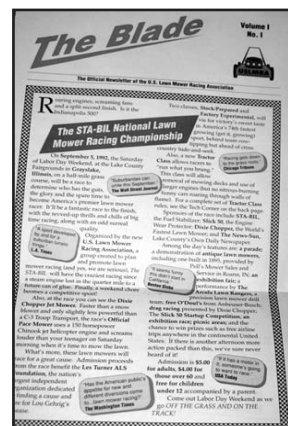






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# In Memory of Jim Keech, "Kemowsod" 1950-2012



The following essay was written about Jim Keech at the 2010 STA-BIL Nationals Weekend and was selected to honor Jim Keech with the 2010 Dubba G. Everyman Award.



2010 Dubba G. Memorial Award  
Jim "Mr. Kemowsod" Keech

So much can be said about this driver. I don't know one person that has anything bad to say about him. He is a real trooper! He races his heart out each and every time he dons his racing suit. He is a great and upstanding guy who never talks bad about any of his fellow drivers. He is always willing to help on the local and national circuits. He has a heart as big as he is, and is willing to do just about anything for anybody.

His face lights up when people come in the pits and ask him questions. He enjoys sharing his knowledge of the sport with all.

He loves to sign autographs and do interviews, but then again don't we all! You can always find him walking the fence line between races passing out his autographed pictures or chatting it up with other racers, friends or fans. Her will sit and talk to anyone about his racing lawn mower. He loves and sport and is an EXCELLENT promoter of it. Whether he is in his race shirts, race uniform or one of his hats, he is a great spokesperson. He ALWAYS does his best to promote the sport we love so much. This driver is also always looking for new ways to get the lawn mower racing name out there.

This driver may not win every race, but his attitude is never bitter. If he gets a trophy or even if he doesn't, he always has a smile on his face! He can be found in the pits saying things like "WOW, what a race!" or "Now that was FUN!" or "I'll get then next time, you can't win 'em all." By the way, have you ever noticed that this driver is the first one to the track when they tell us to line up for practice? No joke! He really is!

Our nominee is not afraid to go up to a fellow racer and say "What happened to you out there?" or "Hey calm down, it was just a heat race, you'll get him in the feature." He likes to mentor the up-and-coming racers, so all you JP racers and Rookies follow his advice! He is a wise man. He is also a real gentleman racer. He can be found trackside watching the races and cheering on his teammates and fellow racers.

This driver has stepped up on several occasions to flag races, both at the Local Chapter and National levels. He is one of the BEST FLAGGERS EVER!

In closing I would like to strongly recommend Jim "Mr. Kemowsod" Keech for the 2010 Dubba G. Everyman Award.

Jim, for everything that you do both on and off the track, you deserve this award, buddy! Thanks and congratulations!



April 14, 2012

By Chuck Miller

Here is my salute to Jim Keech, A great flagger, a great racer and a friend to many a lawn mower racer.

Keech loved mower racing and to be honest I think he just loved racing period. He knew his way around a racetrack and was one of the best flagman to flag any race I have ever done. He had it going on and was serious about it.

He just had a way of waving the flags and having the right ones up at the right time and he even was one of the first at the mower races that would give us the hand count for how many laps were left. It was like he had been trained by NASCAR for the job. He always would stand at the edge of the track behind a mere hay bale or two and take whatever came flying his way.

In case some of you did not realize this, at the end of the day the flagger would be pretty dusty or if it rained they will see a little mud. Now I don't know about any of the other racers but I found it sometimes a little fun to try to throw a little roost his way if it had rained and give him a mud bath. I would come around the next lap and see him with a little grin and pointing a finger at me.

The most memorable time with Jim was when Jayson and I were having a hard battle on the track and with Jayson normally in the lead I was doing my best to make a pass. I just knew that Jim was trying to keep track of the two of us. I was trying to pass on the outside and kept getting closer to the bales where Jim was standing. It was really getting to be a heated battle. Well I am not sure what lap it was but I got in to the loose stuff and the rear kicked out on me and I just got in the bales right where Jim was standing. I don't know why but I was watching Jim's reaction to where I was and it was something I will not forget. His eyes were as big as goose eggs and I don't know if he had ever moved that fast in his life. Hehe. We both recovered and finished the race and boy did he give me a talking to after the race was over! We both were laughing about and he would mention it from time to time. This is just one of several funny stories to share of Jim's passion of mower racing and I wish I could have been here in person to tell it!



Jim Keech was cool,  
A tough old bird.

Cross him twice,  
And he'll have words.

Game face on, and helmet too,  
On two wheels, and right with you.

In the turn and down the straight,  
On the gas and he won't wait.

Big 'ole smile when he would win,  
Even when he was tinkerin.

Change that belt, feel the heat,  
Lookin' good in the driver's seat.

I see ambition in his face,  
I miss our pit talks at the race.

We'd talk about the track and moan,  
Like breakfast time with no backbone.

We've seen a lot both he and I,  
Damn I'm gonna miss that guy.

His jokes smile and chuckle too,  
It's in your heart, you feel it too.

Next time that it's mowin' time,  
Let him know you're doin' fine.

Raise your fist, or thumbs of two,  
Cause that's what all the winners do.

Not all races can be fun,  
Jim's last race was just that one.

You try to do the best you can,  
But sometimes stuff goes through the fan.

His time was short, but he had fun,  
The light you see is not the sun.

It's Jim, he's smilin' down on you,  
So pay attention what you do.

The Lord and Jim will race some day,  
Jim will win, the Lord will pray.

Jim rode off, away he went,  
Cuttin' up was time well spent.

See ya pal, save me some grass,  
And show the Lord how ya really pass.

By Kevin Penne, Cooter, #104



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# The U.S. Open Series Schedule



As the USLMRA celebrates our 20th Year in 2012, we are proud to announce the formation of the U.S. Open Points Series. The goal is to continue to expand our appeal to more racers outside of the USLMRA and to continue to host U.S. Open events for USLMRA members and non-members to compete where they otherwise could not. The U.S. Open will afford a wide range of lawnmower racers an opportunity to participate in a USLMRA National Level Race without having to qualify for the USLMRA STA-BIL Keeps Gas Fresh Finals.

## 2012 U.S. Open Series Schedule

<http://www.letschow.com/2012-season-schedule/u-s-open-points-series/>

June 2-3, U.S. Cure Mower Cancer Open

Superior, WI

<http://www.wilmra.com/>

Contact:

Shannon Kayhart

[lusty\\_monkey@yahoo.com](mailto:lusty_monkey@yahoo.com)

715-207-1805

July 4, U.S. Pacific Coast Open

Estacada, OR

Contact:

Bud Elmore

[2budzracing@gmail.com](mailto:2budzracing@gmail.com)

951-581-4409

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July 28-29, US Midwest Open

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<http://cprraceway.webs.com/>

Contact:

Curt Hodges

[hodgeslc@hotmail.com](mailto:hodgeslc@hotmail.com)

641-521-8083

August 11-12, U.S. Open V-Twin Shootout

Vestaburg Speedway, Vestaburg, MI

<http://vestaburgkartspeedway.com/>

Contacts:

Ferris Hipolite

[fhipp59@yahoo.com](mailto:fhipp59@yahoo.com)

989-763-2321

Ryan Kerr

[rykeryoung@sympatico.ca](mailto:rykeryoung@sympatico.ca)

519-882-3876

Sept. 2, The U.S. Open (Finals)

Delaware County Fairgrounds, Delaware, OH

<http://www.letschow.com/2012-season-schedule/u-s-open-points-series/>

Contacts:

Kerry Evans

[evansop@bellsouth.net](mailto:evansop@bellsouth.net)

251-645-2942

Lee Vine

[lvine2001@yahoo.com](mailto:lvine2001@yahoo.com)

612-360-7917

Nov. 3-4, Sam Rogers U.S. All American Open,

Stevenson, AL

<http://allamericanmowerchampionships.yolasite.com/>

Contact:

George Herrin

[gdherrin@hughes.net](mailto:gdherrin@hughes.net)

615-969-5784

*Schedule Subject To Change*

## U.S. Open Rules (Summary)

The U.S. Open Series will begin with the first U.S. Open race after Labor Day of each year, and will culminate on the subsequent Sunday of Labor Day weekend. U.S. Open Series races will primarily be stand-alone events, and not intermingled in with STA-BIL Lawn and Garden Series races. In some cases, U.S. Open Classes may be added to a STA-BIL Series Race.

U.S. Open Rules as defined on the USLMRA Website. First ever U.S. Open Points Series Class champions will be crowned on the USLMRA 20th Anniversary Celebration, during the 2012 STA-BIL Nationals Weekend.

1st-5th Place trophies will be awarded in U.S. Open Classes Qualifying for the U.S. Open

- Racers must have participated in organized/sanctioned lawnmower racing of some sort within the 24 months previous to any U.S. Open Series Events. These racers may be required to provide proof in the form of official results from previous races.
- Open to mowers that adhere to at least one class structure outlined below.

(No new classes will be created on the day of the event).

## U.S. Open Series Rules

- Open to any USLMRA-legal mower, USLMRA Local Chapter (LC)/Affiliated Club (AC) mower or, any mower deemed safe by USLMRA Tech Staff.

- No roll cages.
- Open to all mowers that meet all USLMRA Safety Standards, see USLMRA Rule Book (No Exceptions).

## Class Designation/Groupings

Goal: We want ALL groups out there to be allowed to compete in the U.S. Open. We have created a set of rules designed to allow just about any reasonable type of mower to compete. Please review rules below. Sanctioned Classes USLMRA rules apply:

- KS: (Kids Stock) "U.S. Open Only"
  - JP: (Kids Super Stock)
  - GPK: (Kids Governed Prepared)
  - IMOW: (Adult Super Stock)
  - GP: (Adult Governed Prepared)
  - AP: (Mini Sportsman)
  - SP: (Sportsman)
  - CP: (Mod X)
  - BP: (Super Sportsman)
  - FX: (Pro X)
  - SS: (Open Super Stock) "U.S. Open Only"
  - FXS: (Open Single)
  - FXT: (Open Twins)
1. Mower must use lawn mower 4-cycle motor.
  2. Must have brakes that work.

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## USLMRA National Tech Director Manny Torres



USLMRA National  
Tech Director  
Manny Torres

Happy 20th Anniversary USLMRA! And congratulations racers past and present for a successful first 20 years of Kicking Grass!

Over the past several years USLMRA has taken the traditional route of updating the National Rule Book in attempt to make the sport of Lawn Mower Racing better and safer. But as far back as I can remember this year marks the first time numerous major changes have been put in place in order to open up the sport to accommodate racers from throughout the country who have raced with different racing groups. Knowing the major changes would create

controversy, confusion, and changes on how events are run, USLMRA was willing to take these chances. Initial results after the first National points race are positive. Despite having 11 different classes, the time needed to run an event did not seem much different from the past, even with several more classes for racers from different groups outside USLMRA. And everyone appears to have a clear understanding on what USLMRA is all about: "Bringing what you have and having fun."

With all these changes there were many issues that had to be dealt with, insurance coverage (wow), age limits, safety features, build policies and so forth. What we all must keep in mind is that everything is done for a reason, and that being what is best for the sport and doing what is needed to keep the sport insured to protect those to take part in it. I have personally witnessed many drivers injured, some seriously, and the first thought that comes to me is "what could have been done to prevent it". Some have been

driver error, some mechanical failure. So every year I take a serious look at what has happened throughout the year, look back at major mechanical issues witnessed during inspections; try to come up with recommendations to make us better prepared for the upcoming season, and to try to eliminate the possibility of accidents and injuries.

Though USLMRA has been able to reduce the number of injuries incurred from racing over the last several years, our insurance carrier has made it known to us that we need to take a hard look on how we conduct races, from the safety aspect of the mowers to the overall track set up. This has been somewhat challenging for your Chapter and Club Officials, as well for National Staff, but we have come up with some stricter guidelines on track set up and mower builds that will make our sport safer and better.

It is asked that all racers understand this and do their part in helping us have a successful, safe racing season.

With the sky rocketing fuel prices continually making it more and more difficult to travel to national events, and Local Chapters finding it harder to find venues who are willing to pay what it cost to host a race, we all need to make sure that what events we do have are not only exciting but safe and to the point that it impresses the host so that they are willing to welcome us back in the future.

I wish all racers a safe and exciting racing season and look forward to seeing you on the track!

Manny

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